In The Claims: *(a marked-up copy of the following amended claims is attached as Appendix A at the end of this Response.)*

Please rewrite claims 34 and 40, without prejudice, as follows:

34.   (Twice Amended) A virtual trading floor system, comprising:

a source that provides data; and

a graphic interface that receives said data and displays a plurality of buying and selling trader metaphors representative of actual traders;

said trader metaphors simulating one or more body movements of traders in an open outcry trading environment.

40.   (Twice Amended) A method of trading using a virtual trading floor system, comprising the steps of:

generating trading information;

receiving said trading information; and

displaying said trading information as a plurality of trader metaphors representative of actual traders, said trader metaphors simulating one or more body movements of buying and selling traders in an open outcry trading environment.

REMARKS

Claims 34 and 40 have been amended for clarity without intending to narrow the scope of the claims. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Fults for his time and suggestions regarding the pending claims. The present amendment incorporates the suggestions made by the Examiner in a telephone conference call between Examiner Fults, and the undersigned on July 1, 2002.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendment be entered and that the pending claims be considered and allowed to issue. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned directly at (312) 984-7679 should there be any issues that might hinder passage of this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: <u>July 3, 2002</u>   By: _____
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<u>Appendix A</u>

<u>Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims 34 and 40 for App. No. 09/540,601</u>

34.   (Twice Amended) A virtual trading floor system, comprising:

a source that provides data; and

a graphic [graphical] interface that receives said data and displays a plurality of <u>buying</u> <u>and selling</u> trader metaphors representative of actual traders;

said trader metaphors simulating one or more body movements of traders in an open outcry trading environment.

40.   (Twice Amended) A method of trading using a virtual trading floor system, comprising the steps of:

generating <u>trading information</u> [data];

receiving said <u>trading information</u> [data]; and

displaying said <u>trading information as</u> [data] [in the form of] a plurality of <u>buying and</u> <u>selling</u> trader metaphors representative of actual traders, said trader metaphors simulating one or more body movements of traders in an open outcry trading environment.

4